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Inside Washington

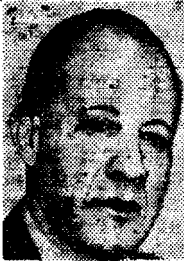
By Robert S. Allen

WERE WE LISTENING

Washington. Britain and France "knew well in advance" that Israel would attack Egypt, but the U.S. had no inkling of it and was caught completely by surprise.

That's what Central Intelligence Director Allen Dulles reported to President Eisenhower, at his White House conference with State Dept. and military leaders on the Middle East emergency.

The CIA chief did not amplify his startling statement. He gave no indication of his basis for making it, and offered no explanation why Britain and France were given prior word and the U.S. was not. Dulles did express concern about this, but went no further than that. No questions were asked him.



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Throughout the grave discussion, the President stressed three points:

¶ He is "unalterably opposed to any kind of hasty military action."

¶ Everything possible must be done to "restore and keep the peace in this region, but U.S. military forces will not be used until all other measures have been thoroughly explored."

¶ If exceptional steps are deemed necessary they will be taken only if Congress approves them.

State Secretary Dulles sounded

a note of caution about calling Congress into special session.

"Any proposal involving the use of armed forces against Israel," he said, "is certain to evoke loud and violent opposition in both the House and Senate. I doubt if approval could be obtained in time to be of much value."

The question of employing American military forces was raised by Adm. Radford.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff did not advocate this. He carefully expressed no view either way on the matter. Radford discussed it solely from a technical aspect.

"If our forces are to be used," he advised, "that should be done as soon as possible to keep the fighting from spreading and to end it quickly."

Radford also expressed the opinion that Israel's assault on Egypt, "is not an all-out war, but is designed to cripple Egypt's capacity to provoke an all-out war at a time of its choosing."

The fighting between Egypt and Israel, it was brought out during the White House conference, is not halting the flow of U. S. military aid to Iraq.

These arms and equipment are being provided indirectly through Britain. The U. S. pays Britain for the supplies, and Britain turns them over to Iraq. A shipload, including a number of medium (Centurion) tanks, was delivered by the British to Iraq this week.

This indirect arrangement of providing Iraq with U. S. military aid having had a British mili-

tary mission and Iraq forces being British-trained and equipped. Also this process is one means by which the U. S. supports the Baghdad Pact, organized by Britain, of which Iraq is a key member. The U. S. is not a direct participant in this alliance, but heavily underwrites it with financial and military assistance.

Since 1954, more than \$16,000,000 in military aid has been earmarked for Iraq. Of this total, \$14,000,000 has been expended, and another \$2,000,000 in equipment "is in the pipeline"; that is, it's enroute.

So far these funds have provided Iraq with 38 tanks, large quantities of small arms and ammunition, numerous trucks and other motor equipment, and radio and communications supplies.